

IN IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Morris D. Green, #11538-017,	)	C/A No.: 1:20-821-DCC-SVH
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	
C. Thomas, Dr. Collins, Tanner, S.	)	
Lanham, Morgan, Bryant,	)	ORDER
Franklin, Lt. Broadwater,	)	
Edgefield FCI, Lt. John/Jane Doe,	)	
and other Jane and John Does,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

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Morris D. Green (“Plaintiff”), a federal prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis, brought this civil rights action alleging a violation of his constitutional rights. This matter is before the court on Plaintiff’s motion for appointment of counsel. [ECF No. 3].

There is no constitutional right to appointment of counsel in civil cases. While the court is granted the power to exercise its discretion to appoint counsel for an indigent party in a civil action, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1); *Smith v. Blackledge*, 451 F.2d 1201 (4th Cir. 1971), such appointment “should be allowed only in exceptional cases.” *Cook v. Bounds*, 518 F.2d 779, 780 (4th Cir. 1975).

Plaintiff requests appointed counsel because (1) he is unable to afford

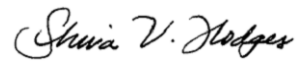
the services of an attorney; (2) he has contacted several attorneys who will not represent him without a retainer; and (3) he attended high school, but did not graduate. [ECF No. 2].

After a review of the file, this court has determined that there are no exceptional or unusual circumstances presented that would justify the appointment of counsel, nor would Plaintiff be denied due process if an attorney were not appointed. *Whisenant v. Yuam*, 739 F.2d 160 (4th Cir. 1984). In most civil rights cases, the issues are not complex, and whenever such a case brought by an uncounseled litigant goes to trial, the court outlines proper procedure so the uncounseled litigant will not be deprived of a fair opportunity to present his case.

The undersigned acknowledges nonbinding precedent from United States Courts of Appeals for the Third and Seventh Circuits requiring courts considering motions pursuant to § 1915(e)(1) to evaluate a pro se plaintiff's competence to litigate the case. *See Pruitt v. Mote*, 503 F.3d 647, 649 (7th Cir. 2007); *Montgomery v. Pinchak*, 294 F.3d 492, 499 (3d Cir. 2002). Although the Fourth Circuit has articulated no similar requirement, the undersigned finds Plaintiff's pleadings demonstrate he is sufficiently competent to pursue his own claim. Accordingly, Plaintiff's request for a discretionary appointment of counsel under 28 U.S.C. §1915(e)(1) is denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

March 2, 2020  
Columbia, South Carolina

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shiva V. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shiva V. Hodges  
United States Magistrate Judge